

# **Regular Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee**

**Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 6:00 PM**

**Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performing and Visual Arts Media Center**

**350 Division Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860**

## **Minutes**

**I Meeting will come to order**

**The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM.**

### **a. Roll call**

**Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Cano-here; Mr. Coughlin-here;  
Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here**

**The Chairman apologized for his tardiness, he was at a meeting at  
Pawtucket City Hall.**

**Also in attendance were Mrs. Deborah Cylke, Superintendent of  
Schools; Ms. Patti DiCenso, Secondary School Performance Officer;  
Ms. Kathleen Suriani, Elementary School Performance Officer; Ms.  
Melissa Devine, Chief Financial Officer and Colonel Jeff Richardson,  
Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program  
(MCJROTC).**

### **b. Pledge of Allegiance**

**The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, led the audience in the Pledge of  
Allegiance.**

## **II Special Reports of Student Representatives**

**Charles E. Shea High School**

**Jose T: The Key Spirit Awards representing boys sports team soccer  
and tennis. Shea High School had three varsity teams start in the  
playoffs although they did not advance.**

**In the classroom teachers are advocating different teaching techniques and technology. Define words without looking in the dictionary.**

**There's been a lot of change at Shea High School; school spirit week, teachers, programs and students. Peer mediation groups—when students need discipline and listen to their peers.**

**William E. Tolman**

**Amanda: Juniors went through NECAP testing.**

**There's a changed culture of school that gave students a reason to go to school.**

**The girls' volleyball and soccer teams advanced to the State finals.**

**We're holding a holiday food drive.**

**Parent teacher conferences are on the 14th and parents can discuss any concerns they may have at that time.**

**Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts**

**None**

### **III Public Participation**

**Dylan Zelazo: I want to thank all of you on the School Committee for your hard work on consolidation. The City looks forward to continuing to working on a shared model for the human resource MOU.**

### **V Old Business/Action Item**

#### **1 Approval of Second Reading of Revised School Committee Policies –Series 1000**

**Mrs. Cylke: We are seeking your approval of the second reading of the Revised School Committee Policies – Series 1000. Legal has**

**vetted them and there is no reason not to approve them this evening. The next series we will be bringing before you will be series 2000. If you are uncomfortable with any of the language, we will have Mr. Honnen come in.**

**Mr. Spooner moved to table the second reading of the Revised School Committee Policies—Series 1000. Ms. Nordquist seconded.**

**Mrs. Cylke: I just want to remind you they are not mine, they are yours.**

**Roll call**

**Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes**

**Motion passes unanimously to table.**

## **VI Action Items**

### **1 Approval of Marine Corps JROTC MOU**

**Mrs. Cylke: I'd like to thank Mr. John Lalli, a substitute administrator who had experience and applied to all armed services for the JROTC program and received the same response from all; thank you, but there is no money for the program. We received a letter from the Marine Corps and met with Ms. DiCenso. My experience in my former district with this program shows that it builds business etiquette. Having this program is not to recruit, it is to build pride and civic duty in young men and women.**

**Colonel Jeff Richardson grew up in Warwick and East Greenwich. He is a graduate of law school and served as a judge advocate in Newport. Jeff taught law in naval law in Newport and participated on site visits.**

**I want to be clear on the commitment. If the Committee is clear to commit there will have to be a site visit. They will need some storage space, office space and a drill hall. If the Committee takes that step tonight, we are on the right trajectory.**

**Colonel Richardson: I want to reiterate, this is not a recruitment tool. You will never receive a telephone call asking where are our Marines. There are 245 Marine Corps in schools throughout the United States. There is one in Japan and one in Guam. We look at the student population and tailor the curriculum to your mold; civic leadership, American History and leadership, also there is physical education and a drill and march piece. Cadets will learn to march and may have to stand at attention, personal responsibility and try to keep the Marine Corps standard. Students in Boston take field trips and they have to look good. Colonels want kids to look great.**

**Mr. Spooner moved to approve the MCJROTC Memorandum of Understanding. Ms. Nordquist seconded.**

**Ms. Nordquist: I'm a teacher and did a practicum at Cranston. They have this program there and the students are very proud and do they have a program for college?**

**Colonel Richardson: Yes, we try to guide them in whatever path they want to go. There are scholarships available. The Naval Academy fully paid for a five year program.**

**Mr. Araujo: Thank you for your service this country. What is the total cost to the district? What is the initial cost and cost each year and does it bind us for a certain length of time? It sounds like a wonderful program, but we have to do our due diligence.**

**Mrs. Cylke:** Once the needs are determined there is a conversation and we'll do it at one high school. We have to do it at both high schools. That's my experience in my other district. There is a senior instructor and assistant instructor and we pay half. It's a full year contract, the officer is on a full year contract no more than a full year teacher. The cost is \$160,000 to the district.

As students sign up, the cost would diminish. \$160,000 we pay and the Marine Corps puts in the other \$160,000. \$5,000 per unit for supplies and \$25,000 for uniforms. I'm estimating \$5,000-\$7,000 at Shea and at Tolman no more than to put the stem labs in. That's the cost up front.

The kids will earn credit. We're making a commitment to build the program. We'd like to see 120 student sign up at Tolman and 90 at Shea. It's in the agreement that the high schools will stay accredited. It's also in the agreement to make adequate space for storage and an office. Agreeing they will be teachers of the Pawtucket School District and we agree that they will have access to come in and do an inspection.

The biggest challenge is the drill space. We will have a discussion with the folks who own the armory because there is a need for that additional practice space.

**Mr. Spooner:** Are benefits included?

**Mrs. Cylke:** The officers joining us do not need benefits. I can't give the exact dollar amount until we get into a contract.

**Mr. Coughlin:** Are these officers in active duty?

**Colonel Richardson:** Primarily they are all retirees. Sometime active,

but not for long term assignments.

**Mrs. Cylke:** As we move forward there won't be an event that we don't welcome the Tolman or Shea honor guard, be it a funeral or some other event. The JROTC build lives.

**Mr. Araujo:** Thank you for choosing us.

**Colonel Richardson:** This will be the first Marine Corps program in Rhode Island. You'll see an impact at your school. Last night we took 19 students to a Celtics game.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

## **2 Coaching Appointment**

**Mrs. Cylke:** Tonight we are seeking your approval for an Assistant Wrestling Coach at Tolman High School, Blake McNulty.

**Mr. Spooner** moved to approve the coaching appointment as recommended by the Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

## **3 Approval of City/School Department Human Resource MOU**

**Mr. Tenreiro:** We had a very productive meeting with the subcommittee and know that the Committee wanted something in writing. The City is ready for a shared model to bring forward in December. We need some more wordsmithing and change wording to consolidated and not shared.

**Mr. Araujo:** I will say during the consolidation meeting, the City folk assigned to it asked if the Pawtucket School District wants a shared model. They do want to possibly go to a shared model and that's a lot of flexibility on their part. I say make the language edits based on

what was proposed to us, have a meeting of some kind and we can hammer this at the table voting it up and down.

Mr. Araujo moved to table the Human Resource Memorandum of Understanding and bring it back in December. Mr. Spooner seconded.

### **Roll Call**

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-no; Ms. Cano-yes; Mr. Coughlin-no; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes.

Motion passes, five in favor to table; two opposed—Ms. Bonollo and Mr. Coughlin.

## **VII Presentation/Discussion Items**

### **1 Monthly Financial Report**

Ms. Devine commented that the monthly financial report had been provided and asked if there were any questions.

There was no further discussion.

### **2 Monthly Vendor Expense Report**

Ms. Devine: This vendor report is a draft of last month's actual checks issued in month previous. It's showing payments. You can see who the vendors are and the payments and who is receiving payments.

Mr. Tenreiro: If a consent agenda is being passed this could be brought before us for approval.

Ms. Devine: We put it on file to see who the vendors are being paid.

Ms. Bonollo: What about income? We get Title I and grant monies, it would be nice to see that as well.

Ms. Devine: We get award letters and we can come up with some sort

of way to get that information to you.

**Mrs. Cylke:** Last year we had Chris Spagnoli do a presentation and it is audited by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE).

## **VIII Superintendent's Report**

**Mrs. Cylke:** The teachers and students are still experiencing connectivity issues. This year we have installed more devices. Last year we chose to not spend money on summer school and instead spend it on technology. Very shortly the State will determine who the new vendor will be and we cannot add more devices without more connectivity.

Tomorrow Melissa and I will be meeting with the Mayor and Dennis Hoyle on the budget deficit reduction plan with approval of a plan.

With the use of grant monies eight of us went to Mooresville NC. It is not a wealthy district by any means, however, the Superintendent there was recognized nationally for digitally moving kids in America.

My goal would be to replicate that in two schools. \$7,800 per student every kindergarten student has a computer. 92% of the kids are proficient in math and reading. Mark Edwards was recently here to present. He's really humble. You learn everything not to do in his book. Most people are in the mindset that you can't afford it.

Teachers work hard and love the challenge. Teachers are blown away and very enthusiastic. The good thing for Pawtucket is that we qualify for some grant money.

Finance Committee Councilor Barry said he understands the reason for the RIDE monies. We're still on our timeline.

Ms. Devine has responded to questions on the local 1352 contract



and will bring that back on the 22nd. We're looking at structural issues.

## **IX Special Reports of the School Committee Members**

**Mr. Araujo:** The holiday season has arrived. Thank you for coming this evening. Happy Thanksgiving. Be safe and happy during this holiday season.

**Ms. Bonollo:** Thank you on behalf of the Potter Burns PTA. Thank you for your generous donation. We are now serving 10 elementary schools and 3 junior high schools. A total of 170 students are receiving backpacks and at this rate, we don't have enough money for the whole year. People are aware of the program and sending donations. Thank you to everyone who is sending donations. The Coat Drive is on and it is at 175 Main Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island. They are collecting socks, underwear, mittens, and gloves, new and used coats. Our families have a significant need.

Hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving and good night.

**Ms. Cano:** First I want to congratulate the girls' volleyball team at Shea for being Division Champions. Nicole and I with Ms. DiCenso and Ms. Suriani met in the Mayor's office and the Latino Institute is looking to collaborate and making recommendation to what do we want to do.

I had a good time at Shea's open house.

I went to the breakfast for college crusaders and truly there is a lot of support for mentoring theme of how everyone cares and makes a difference in their lives.

I want to congratulate the Shea students on their college success and

**scholarships.**

**Happy Thanksgiving everyone. I know I am very thankful.**

**Mr. Coughlin: Happy Thanksgiving.**

**Ms. Nordquist: Happy Thanksgiving. I just want to remind everyone that Tolman and Shea play their annual football game the night before Thanksgiving at McCoy.**

**Mr. Spooner: The Shea Raiders may be top heavy this year, but I say go Tigers! Happy Thanksgiving everyone.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: pass**

**X      Adjournment**

**Mr. Spooner moved to adjourn. Mr. Coughlin seconded.**

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

**The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, adjourned the regular meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 7:05 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Clerk**

**Approved 2/11/14**